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# EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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## (54) Synchronous electric pump with silencing device

(57) A synchronous electric pump provided with a silencing device comprising a rubber fitting (6) which is interposed between the pair of teeth (5a,7a) designed

to transmit motion between the rotor (2) of the motor and the shaft (3) of the impeller.

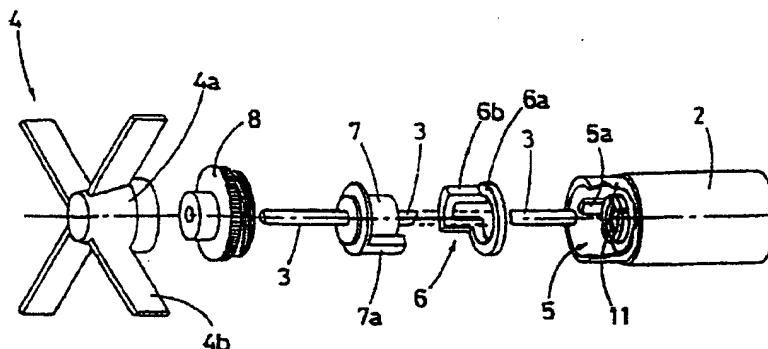


FIG. 2

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## Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a low-power electric pump, driven by a two-pole synchronous motor, which is provided with a silencing device adapted to eliminate the typical ticking that this kind of pump produces when starting.

[0002] The pump according to the invention is normally installed in household washing machines to discharge the washing water.

[0003] In order to better comprehend the innovative features of the pump according to the invention, it is necessary to briefly describe the structural configuration and the operating methods of currently commercially available equivalent models.

[0004] In this pump, the impeller, of the type with radial vanes, is not rigidly coupled to the shaft but has a hub which accommodates a special bush which is directly fixed to the shaft of the synchronous motor; more specifically, the bush has a tooth which is adapted to cooperate with a complementary tooth formed inside the hub of the impeller.

[0005] In other words, transmission of the motion from the shaft of the synchronous motor to the impeller is not direct but occurs by means of the tooth of the bush, which causes rotation of the impeller by interfering with the complementary tooth of the hub.

[0006] The activation of the pump every time the synchronous motor starts produces a brief transient, during which the shaft repeatedly and suddenly reverses its direction of rotation, producing an unpleasant beating noise due to the successive impacts that occur between the tooth and the complementary tooth.

[0007] The aim of the present invention is to eliminate this noise by introducing a silencing device in the pump.

[0008] This aim has been achieved by eliminating the bush and keying the impeller directly to the shaft, which in turn has been allowed to rotate freely with respect to the rotor of the synchronous motor.

[0009] Transmission of the motion from the rotor to the shaft occurs by means of a tooth which is provided in a circular seat formed at one end of the supporting sleeve of the permanent magnet, which in practice constitutes the rotor of the synchronous motor; the tooth is designed to cooperate with a complementary tooth which is formed externally with respect to a collar fitted on the shaft and locked thereon and is adapted to be inserted in the seat, which also accommodates a rubber fitting adapted to cushion and silence the impacts between the tooth and the complementary tooth.

[0010] In other words, when the rotor starts rotating, the tooth formed in the seat of the sleeve interferes with the complementary tooth formed on the collar, which accordingly rotates together with the shaft where both the collar and the impeller are rigidly coupled.

[0011] As mentioned, the impact between the tooth and the complementary tooth is not accompanied by any beating thanks to the silencing action of the rubber

fitting interposed between them.

[0012] Further characteristics and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of an embodiment according to the invention, illustrated only by way of non-imitative example in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a sectional view of the pump according to the present invention, taken along a plane which passes through the rotation axis of the shaft of the synchronous motor;

Figure 2 is an exploded perspective view of the various components involved in the transmission of motion from the rotor to the impeller of the electric pump according to the invention.

[0013] With reference to the above figures, the pump according to the invention includes a synchronous two-pole motor 1, the rotor 2 of which is not rigidly coupled to the shaft 3; the hub 4a of the impeller 4, of the type with radial vanes 4b, is instead fixed to the shaft.

[0014] A circular seat 5 is provided at the end of the sleeve that supports the permanent magnet that constitutes the rotor 2; a tooth 5a is formed on the internal wall of the seat and is in turn accommodated in a special rubber fitting 6, which is formed by a ring 6a adapted to fit in the bottom of the seat 5 and by a U-shaped portion 6b which is suitable to snugly accommodate the tooth 5a.

[0015] A traction collar 7, whose dimensions allow to insert it in the seat 5, is fitted and fixed on the shaft 3 and is externally provided with a complementary tooth 7a which, during the rotation of the rotor 2, is subjected to the thrust of the tooth 5a; the impact between the tooth 5a and the complementary tooth 7a is cushioned and silenced by the rubber U-shaped portion 6b interposed between them.

[0016] The reference numeral 8 designates the plug by means of which the chamber 9 formed in the body 10 of the electric pump is closed hermetically; the rotor 2 is accommodated and rotates therein in a conventional manner.

[0017] Finally, it should be observed that the shaft 3 moves with a slight friction inside the rotor 2, so as to prevent the shaft 3 from starting to vibrate freely and prevent the impact of the tooth 5a against the complementary tooth 7a from being excessively harsh and heavy for the fitting 6.

[0018] The friction engagement is provided by means of a rubber ring 11 which is accommodated within the seat 5 at the inlet of the axial channel in which the shaft 3 is inserted through the rotor 2.

[0019] In practice, the materials employed, so long as they are compatible with the specific use, as well as the dimensions, may be any according to requirements and to the state of the art.

## Claims

1. A synchronous electric pump provided with a silencing device comprising a two-pole synchronous electric motor (1) which rotates a shaft (3) 5  
wherein the impeller (4) of the pump is fixed, characterized in that a circular seat (5) is provided at the end of the sleeve that supports the permanent magnet that constitutes the rotor (2), a tooth (5a) 10  
being provided on the internal wall of said seat and being accommodated in a special rubber fitting (6) and being designed to cooperate with a complementary tooth (7a) which is formed externally to a driving collar (7) fixed along the shaft (3) and whose 15  
dimensions allow to insert it in said seat (5).
2. The synchronous electric pump provided with a silencing device, according to claim 1, characterized in that the gasket (6) is formed by a ring (6a), 20  
which is adapted to fit in the bottom of the seat (5), and by a U-shaped portion (6b), which is adapted to snugly accommodate said tooth (5a).
3. The synchronous electric pump provided with a silencing device, according to the preceding claims, 25  
characterized in that the shaft (3) engages with slight friction inside the rotor (2) by means of a rubber ring (11) which is accommodated within said seat (5) at the inlet of the axial channel in which the shaft (3) is inserted through the rotor (2). 30

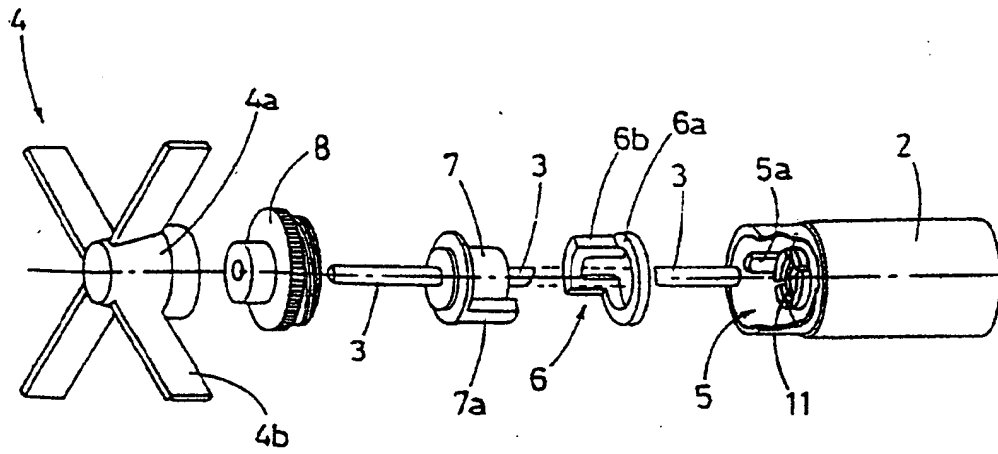
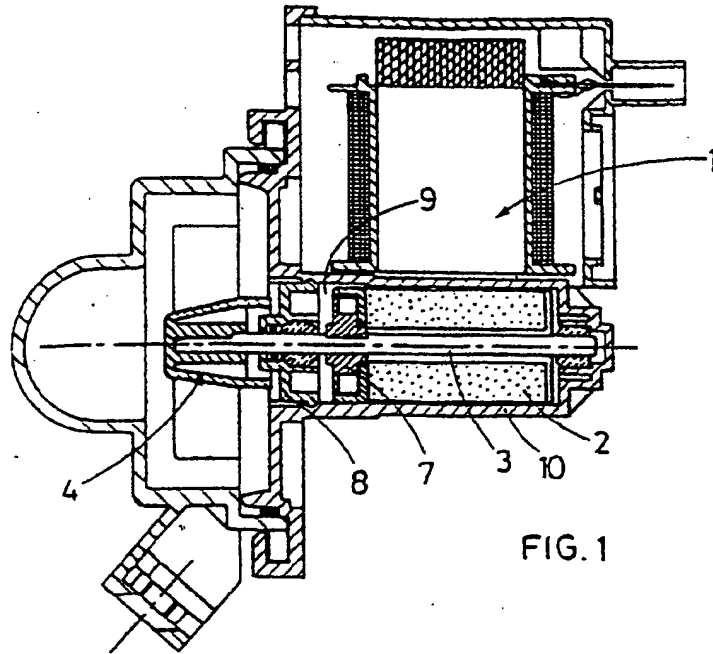
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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 99 10 5937

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A	DE 44 24 257 A (AWECO KUNSTSTOFFTECH GERAETE) 18 January 1996 * column 2, line 24 - line 27 * * column 3, line 46 - line 55; figure 1 *	1	
A	WO 94 21026 A (HANNING ELEKTRO WERKE ;HANGMANN WERNER (DE)) 15 September 1994 -----		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.8) F04D H02K
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 5 July 1999	Examiner Zid1, K
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure F : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons S : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (Pd/C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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